

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /079 W

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R 201920Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8496

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TORRIJOS' TRAVELS

1. TORRIJOS HIMSELF TOLD PANAMANIAN TELEVISION YESTERDAY THAT HE WILL TRAVEL TO CUCUTA, COLOMBIA ON THIS THURSDAY, JULY 22 TO MEET WITH COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTS. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA RECTOR, ROMULO ESCOBAR, AND WILL STAY IN CUCUTA FOR TWO DAYS.

2. TORRIJOS WILL ALSO GO TO CANADA, ARRIVING IN MONTREAL ON JULY 27, AND RETURNING TO PANAMA ON JULY 30. THERE HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY MINISTER NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES MINISTER JULIO SOSA. TORRIJOS SAID THAT HE WILL HOLD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, BUT THAT HE DOESN NOT EXPECT A COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED.

3. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS TORRIJOS MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IN COLOMBIA HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN. THAT HE WILL DISCUSS
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PANAMA'S CANAL "CAUSE", AND THE NEGOTIATIONS GOES

WITHOUT SAYING. IN CANADA, PRESENCE OF THE TWO ECONOMIC MINISTERS INDICATES THAT POINT OF VISIT THERE WILL LIKELY REVOLVE AROUND CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO, AND INVESTMENT IN, PANAMA.

4. FYI FOR OTTAWA: FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS OBSERVED TO EMBASSY THAT WHILE IN PREVIOUS YEARS PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WAS ALSO ACCREDITED TO CANADA, PREOCCUPATION OF WASHINGTON EMBASSY WITH CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN RECENT YEARS HAD LED TO FAILURE TO SO ACCREDIT CURRENT PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN OTTAWA AS WELL. SOURCE EXPECTED THAT ONE CONSEQUENCE OF TORRIJOS' TRIP WOULD BE EITHER ACCREDITATION OF AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO CANADA AGAIN (CANADA IS REPRESENTED IN PANAMA BY AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN SAN JOSE), OR OPENING OF A PERMANENT PANAMANIAN MISSION IN OTTAWA. END FYI.
JORDEN

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NNN

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